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TWO NEW HARVEST MICE FROM HONDURAS

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This is the second preliminary report on the mammals recently collected by C. F. Underwood in Honduras and Costa Rica. In the collections there is a large series of several species of harvest mice, and two from Ocotepeque represent hitherto undescribed forms.

My thanks are due to the U. S. Biological Survey for the loan of comparative material and to Mr. A. H. Howell for comparing these specimens with the large series in Washington and commenting upon their relationships.

Reithrodontomys mexicanus ocotepequensis, new subspecies

Ocotepeque Harvest Mouse

Type.—No. 124860, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; male adult; Monte Verde, Department of Ocotepeque, Honduras, 30 miles northeast of the city Ocotepeque; altitude 4500 feet; July 23, 1936; collector, C. F. Underwood. The type is a skin and skull in good condition.

General Characters.—Similar to *Reithrodontomys mexicanus lucifrons*, but color of pelage slightly darker, tail shorter and skull distinctly smaller.

Description.—Upper parts, from crown to rump, dark sayal brown varied with fuscous; forehead to sides of face dark cinnamon-buff; eye-ring black; sides of body near clay color, very little paler than back; ears fuscous; feet dull white, hind feet with median stripe of hair-brown reaching to base of toes; under parts soiled whitish, broadly plumbeous basally; tail fuscous, unicolor.

Skull.—Small and slender with rostrum rather narrow for the *mexicanus* group; nasals slender, ending posteriorly on a line with ends of premaxillae; braincase small and rounded; palatal foramen short, ending in front of plane of first molars: similar to *R. m. lucifrons*, but distinctly smaller, with smaller teeth, less inflated braincase and relatively narrower rostrum.

Measurements of Type Specimen.—Skin, measured in the field, head and body, 80 millimeters, (female topotype 80); tail vertebrae, 101 (105); hind foot, 15, in dried skin, 19.6 (18.5); ear, in dried skin, 13 (14). Skull, greatest length, 23.8 (22.8); width of braincase, 10.9 (10.8); length of nasals, 8.4 (8); interorbital constriction, 3.5 (3.5); width of outer wall of antorbital foramen, 1.4 (1.5); alveolar length of upper molar series, 3.15 (3.1).

The twelve specimens on which this race is based agree closely in color and cranial characters. The type, which is an adult male with worn molars, represents near the maximum rather than the medium

size of *R. m. ocotepequensis*. The skulls in the topotypes, while more or less adult, are slightly smaller with somewhat more globular braincases than in the type. *R. m. ocotepequensis* is quite unlike *R. m. mexicanus*, which is much larger, and needs comparison only with *R. m. lucifrons*. From the latter it differs in darker color, shorter tail, smaller and more slender skull.

Reithrodontomys dorsalis underwoodi, new subspecies

Underwood Harvest Mouse

TYPE.—No. 124869, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; adult (sex not noted); Monte Verde, Department of Ocotepeque, Honduras; altitude 4500 feet; July 24, 1936; collector, C. F. Underwood. The type is a skin and skull in good condition.

GENERAL CHARACTERS.—A small, dark-colored harvest mouse, with relatively short tail, small ears and buffy under parts; similar to typical *R. dorsalis*, but differs in having nearly unicolor tail, richer color and slightly smaller skull.

DESCRIPTION.—Upper parts, from crown to rump, ochraceous-tawny mixed with black, with a broad, dark, dorsal area; sides of body and head ochraceous-tawny lightly varied with fuscous, clearer on cheeks and along lateral line next to belly; under parts washed with light buff; an ochraceous-buff area in pectoral region; ears fuscous-black; hind feet soiled whitish; forefeet white with a dusky stripe reaching half way to toes; tail fuscous, nearly unicolor, only slightly paler below.

SKULL.—Small and rounded; palatine foramen extending posteriorly to just beyond the plane of first molars, similar to *R. dorsalis*, but slightly smaller.

MEASUREMENTS.—Head and body, 73 millimeters; tail vertebrae, 90; hind foot, 19; ear, 17. Skull, greatest length, 23; breadth of braincase, 10.5; length of nasals, 9.4; width of outer wall of antorbital foramen, 1.9; interorbital constriction, 3.2; alveolar length of upper molar series, 3.1.

This race is based on four specimens, which agree closely in color and size. In the type the tail is practically unicolor, while in the other three specimens it is slightly paler below, but the line of demarcation is indistinct. The skull of one specimen, however, is much smaller than any of the other three. *R. d. underwoodi*, compared with typical *R. dorsalis*, is somewhat similar in size and color, but differs in richer color. The upper parts and sides of body in *R. d. underwoodi* are ochraceous-tawny. In *R. dorsalis* these parts are ochraceous-buff. The tail in *R. d. underwoodi* is nearly unicolor. In *R. dorsalis* the under side of the tail is white, with the line of demarcation sharply defined.